

## Message Text

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ACTION DHA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SY-05 FBIE-00 VO-03 CA-01  
INSE-00 PRS-01 DODE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00  
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O R 080849Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6267  
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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TOKYO FOR INS

HONG KONG FOR DIDIR INS

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SREF  
SUBJECT: INDOCHINA REFUGEES ON FRENCH VESSEL "MIRANDA"

REF: PARIS 25592 (NOTAL), STATE 209366 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: IN MEETING MORNING SEPTEMBER 8 WITH EMBOFF, MOFA  
CONSULAR OFFICIAL NOTED THAT MINISTRY OF JUSTICE INTENDS TO  
DENY "MIRANDA" REFUGEES LANDING PERMISSION ON GROUNDS THAT  
ONLY ONE OF NINETY-ONE REFUGEES PERMITTED TO LAND SINCE  
JUNE HAS ACTUALLY BEEN RESETTLED SO FAR (IN FRANCE), AND  
THAT ROKG IS HAVING DIFFICULTY FINDING SUITABLE FACILITIES  
FOR MORE. NOW THAT ROK FOREIGN MINISTER HAS RETURNED FROM  
JAPAN, MOFA IS EXPECTED TO REQUEST RECONSIDERATION BY MOJ.  
EMBOFF EXPRESSED HOPE OF USG THAT "MIRANDA" REFUGEES  
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WILL BE ALLOWED TO LAND AND RESTATED USG POLICY AND PLANS  
RE TAKING 7,000 BOAT CASES. MOFA CLEARLY DISAPPOINTED  
AT EMBASSY'S INABILITY TO PROVIDE DEFINITE INFO RE  
NUMBERS OF REFUGEES IN KOREA TO BE ACCEPTED BY U.S. AND  
TIMETABLE, WITHOUT WHICH MOFA IS AT DISADVANTAGE IN  
DEALING WITH MOJ. END SUMMARY.

1. CONSUL GENERAL DISCUSSED "MIRANDA" BOAT REFUGEES WITH MOFA ACTING DIRECTOR BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS, KIM, BONG JIN. ACCORDING KIM, MINISTRY OF JUSTICE DOES NOT WANT PERMIT LATEST GROUP OF REFUGEES TO LAND BECAUSE, EXCEPT FOR ONE REFUGEE WHO WENT TO FRANCE, THERE HAS BEEN NO MOVEMENT OUT OF KOREA BY THE PREVIOUSLY ADMITTED REFUGEES, THE FIRST GROUP OF WHICH ARRIVED HERE JUNE 17. THE MOJ IS BEING PRAGMATIC ABOUT PROBLEM, ANTICIPATES MORE REFUGEES, AND WITH OUT CONCRETE DEMONSTRATION THAT ONES ALREADY LANDED ARE GOING TO LEAVE DOES NOT WISH TO ADD ANY MORE. MOI ALSO CLAIMS DIFFICULTY IN FINDING "FACILITIES" FOR ACCOMMODATING ADDITIONAL NUMBERS, ESPECIALLY WITH "WINTER" APPROACHING". APPARENTLY MOJ ADVOCATING POLICY TO ALLOW ONLY REFUGEES PICKED UP BY KOREAN REGISTERED VESSELS TO LAND IN KOREA. KIM SAID MOFA FAVORS A LIBERAL POLICY OF TEMPORARILY LANDING REFUGEES, BUT MOJ HAS THE FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY. FOREIGN MINISTER JUST RETURNED FROM JAPAN AND WAS BRIEFED ON PROBLEMS BY VICE MINISTER THIS MORNING. KIM INDICATED FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD LIKELY DECIDE TO URGE MOJ TO GIVE LANDING PERMISSION.

2. KIM REPORTED RECEIPT OF TELEGRAM FROM ROK EMBASSY PARIS THAT ROK AMBASSADOR WAS CALLED TO FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY CONCERNING "MIRANDA" REFUGEES. REGARDING THE SEVENTEEN REFUGEES DESIRING RESETTLEMENT IN FRANCE, FRENCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPORTEDLY MADE COMMITMENT TO ACCEPT ALL SEVENTEEN AND TO PAY ALL EXPENSES. FURTHER THEY GUARANTEED THAT THEY WOULD FLY OUT THE SEVENTEEN FROM KOREA WITHIN FIVE DAYS, IF ROKG GRANTS LANDING PERMISSION. FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY STATED THAT THEY HAD ALREADY MADE THIS COMMITMENT TO UNHCR. THEY ALSO ANNOUNCED THEIR INTENTION TO CONTACT USG ABOUT THE REMAINING 53 REFUGEES, ALL OF WHICH WE UNDERSTAND HAVE EXPRESSED A PREFERENCE FOR RESETTLEMENT IN U.S.

3. CONSUL GENERAL NOTED THAT PROBLEM IS NOT LIMITED TO KOREA, THAT IT IS A PROBLEM THAT MUST BE SHARED BY ALL CONCERNED COUNTRIES ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS. REGARDING LIMITD FACILITIES, THE UNHCR WOULD UNDERWRITE EXPENSES. ONCE AGAIN OUR ANNOUNCED POLICY CONCERNING BOAT CASE REFUGEES WAS EXPLAINED, BUT NO DEFINITE COMMITMENT COULD BE GIVEN REGARDING HOW MANY, IF ANY, REFUGEES WOULD ULTIMATELY BE ACCEPTED BY U.S., OR EXACTLY WHEN.

4. CLEARLY THE ROKG IS LOOKING FOR DEFINITE ACTION ON THE PART OF THE U.S. REGARDING THESE REFUGESS IN KOREA. AT PRESENT WE CAN ONLY RESTATE OUR POLICY BUT GIVE NO

APPROXIMATE NUMBERS OR APPROXIMATE DATES AS TO WHEN WE  
MIGHT ACCEPT REFUGEES. IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL TO  
HAVE AN INS OFFICER VISIT KOREA SOONEST, AND START PROCESSING  
REFUGEES AND SHOWING SOME PROGRESS IN ORDER TO  
STRENGTHEN THE HANDS OF THOSE IN THE ROKG WHO WISH  
ALLOW FUTURE REFUGEES TO BE GIVEN TEMPORARY LANDING  
PERMISSION AND SHELTER.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** INDOCHINA REFUGESS ON FRENCH VESSEL "MIRANDA"  
**TAGS:** SREF, VM  
**To:** STATE PARIS  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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